

CalWORKs Adult Recipients Quarterly Wage Earning Reports

These tables report the number of adults and the receipt of employer-reported earnings for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) adult recipients.

Purpose

The CalWORKs program that began in January 1998 significantly increased the amount of recipients' earnings that are disregarded from calculating the monthly grant. This change enabled CalWORKs recipients to keep more earned income and thus provided an incentive to seek and/or increase paid employment. This report provides information that measures employment success of CalWORKs adult recipients in the labor market at a county level.

Methods

Adult recipients included in this report must have received CalWORKs cash aid for all three months of the calendar quarter, be aged 19 or over, and had employer-reported quarterly earnings. Recipients for all three months of the quarter were identified from the MEDS monthly extract. The type of case (one or two-adults) is identified by number of adults in the assistance unit. Associating all individuals with the same County Serial Number and Family Budget Unit Number identifies the assistance unit. Adult recipients were electronically matched with Base Wage information, using Social Security Number. Using this method, about 40% of the MEDS records find matches in the Base Wage file. Recipients who do not have matches are defined as having no reported earnings.

Before mean and median values were computed for earnings, individual quarterly earnings greater than or equal to \$16,000 were assigned a value of \$16,000 to reduce erroneous report values.

Data Sources

California Department of Health Services Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS)

The MEDS compiles data collected by county welfare, social service offices, the Social Security Administration, health care plans, Medi-Cal, food stamp programs, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (now Temporary Assistance to Needy Families), County Medical Services Program (CMSP), and Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment (SSI/SSP).

This information is used to determine eligibility for assistance under county or federal programs, CalWORKs, Medicaid, or CMSP, as well as to support the delivery of health care services to participants in these programs. Information collected includes eligibility status, demographics, private health insurance data,

and mode of health care delivery (fee-for-service or managed care). The Department of Health Services updates the database nightly. California Department of Social Services (CDSS) receives an extract monthly of social services-related information from the MEDS files and uses it to develop a longitudinal file of CalWORKs recipients.

California Employment Development Department, California Unemployment Insurance Base Wage File (CUIBWF)

This system is designed and maintained for determining eligibility and payments for the California Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Disability Insurance (DI) programs. It contains information about employer-reported taxable wage payments of UI and/or DI covered employment. Approximately 14.9 million workers are currently covered in California.

This file does not include data for the following: self-employed persons not electing DI; federal employees both military and civilian; casual labor paid less than \$50 in a calendar quarter and working less than 24 days in that or the preceding quarter; employees of some nonprofit organizations; students working for a school, college, or university; and railroad employees.

Differences with Other Data Reports

The caseload levels and employment rates reflected in this report parallel those reported in the CalWORKs CA237 and the WTW25, but they are not exact matches for several reasons. First, this report is based on quarterly numbers not monthly—CalWORKs recipients must receive aid in all three months of the quarter. Both the CA237 and WTW25 are monthly reports. Secondly, earnings are quarterly and reflect only UI and DI employer reported earnings for all recipients whether or not they are enrolled in Welfare-to-Work. The WTW25 reports the activities of only enrolled participants in the reporting month.